

May 26, 1966

Dr. James E. Webb
Administrator
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Washington, D.C. 20546

Dear Dr. Webb:

Our informal conversation was enough by itself to make my trip to Washington last Friday. I learned a good deal of the philosophical base of your administration of NASA. My Ph.D. doesn't always drive me to the same answers as a well earned Dr. P.E. would, but I have to admit to a profound respect for the thoughtfulness of the other position.

May I remind you of our discussion of university responsibilities in public affairs, and ask you for some detail on three or four missions you have in mind. With that in hand I might explore what kind of administrative machinery we could set up to mobilize a university response. Stanford might have special strength on questions with large emphasis on medical, engineering, and basic science expertise; but it has no mean reputation for social and behavioral sciences too.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

JL:bm

WEBB